

Appln No. 10/747,774
Amdt date August 29, 2008
Reply to Office action of May 29, 2008

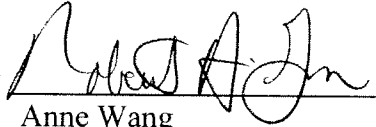
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated May 29, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Tu, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,968) in view of one or more of Swanson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,428,537), Alt (U.S. Patent No. 5,411,527), Sterman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,906) and Lucas, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,795,332). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17 to recite that the distal end of the probe body is fixedly bent at an angle α ranging from about 60 to about 140°. None of Tu, Swanson, Alt, Sterman and Lucas teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2, 4-6 and 8-16, are allowable over Tu, Swanson, Alt, Sterman and Lucas.

Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 7 and 17. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, and no new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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